

Message Text

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ACTION AF-04

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DHA-02 IO-06 DPW-01 SS-14 NSC-05

SSO-00 NSCE-00 PM-03 SP-02 L-01 PRS-01 INR-05

CIAE-00 DODE-00 /045 W

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P R 041335Z AUG 77

FM AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3323

INFO USMISSION GENEVEA

C O N F I D E N T I A L CONAKRY 1369

LIMIDS

E. O: 11652: XGDS-3

TAGS: SHUM, PFOR, GV

SUBJ: POSSIBLE ICRC VISIT TO GUINEA

REF: STATE 181764

1. IN EMBASSY'S OPINION, BEAVOGUI'S OFFER TO HOST A DELEGATION TO OBSERVE GUINEA'S HUMAN RIGHTS ACHIEVEMENTS IS DEFINITELY WORTH PURSUING PER REFTEL. IT WILL HAVE TO BE HANDLED DISCREETLY TO GET OFF GROUND/ HOWEVER.

2. SEKOU TOURE HAS BEEN STUNG BY BAD HUMAN RIGHTS PUBLICITY GOG HAS RECIEVED LATELY. TOURE HAS PUBLICLY PUT AMNESTY INTL AND INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE OF HUMAN RIGHTS ON GUINEA'S "ENEMIES LIST", AND (IN JUNE) JOKED PRIVATELY TO WESTERN AMBASSADOR THAT ANY AMNESTY INTL OFFICIAL FOUND IN GUINEA WOULD BE INSTANTLY THROWN INTO CAMP BOIRO. GUINEAN TIRADES AGAINTSBPSF'S MITTERAND ON ISSUE HAVE ONLY SLOWLY DIED DOWN. BY CONTRAST, BEAVOGUI REVEALED A MORE ADROIT AND PRODUCTIVE APPROACH -- TO
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DISCUSS CARTER ADMINISTRATION'S CONCERNS PRIVATELY BEFORE NO-RETURN PUBLIC THRESHHOLD REACHED, AND IN EFFECT TO EMBRACE ADMINISTRATION'S OBJECTIVES WHILE PUTTING GUINEA'S PRESENT PRACTICES IN BEST LIGHT POSSIBLE.

3. VIA BEAVOGUI OPENING THERE MAY BE 50/50 CHANCE. TOURE CAN BE INDUCED TO ACCEPT A DISCREET ICRC MISSION.

PRESUMABLY HE WOULD HAVE TO ASSURE HIMSELF THAT ITS MEMBERS WERE GOING TO BE "OBJECTIVE" AND THAT ICRC WAS NOT AGENT OF "IMPERIALIST SLANDER CAMPAIGN". HE MIGHT SEE ADVANTAGE IN USING MISSION TO SHOW AND TELL (AFTER TIDYING UP HIS FACILITIES A BIT) AND CLEAR "GUINEA'S GOOD NAME". BUT HE WOULD ALMOST CERTAINLY SEEK IMPOSE TACIT LIMITS ON TERMS OF VISIT -- E.G. KEEPING WORST RECENT CASES (DIALLO TELL) OUT OF SIGHT, ALLOWING ICRC TO SEE "RXTABILITATED" PRISONERS ALMOST READY FOR AMNESTY, AND EXPOSING ICRC TO GUINEA'S "POSITIVE ACHIEVEMENTS." SOME ICRC FLEXIBILITY IN THIS RESPECT MIGHT ALLOW HUMAN RIGHTS DIALOG TO GO FORWARD AND MISSION TO DO AT LEAST SOME GOOD.

4. MOMENT MAY BE AS PROPITIOUS AS ANY. GOG SOURCE TOLD CHARGE THAT ANOTHTHER LARGE AMNESTY IS BEING PREPARED (PERHAPS THE ONE ALLEGEDLY ABORTED BY TOURE'S OUTBURST OVER PSF CRITICISM); TEN DAYS AGO, FOR FIRST TIME IN MEMORY, DILAPIDATD FZBNT GATES OF CAMP BOIRO WERE SPRUCED UP WITH NEW SIGN, FRESH PAINT, AND LEADERS' PORTRAITS -- TO IMPRESS WHOM?

5. AS FOOTNOTE, WE WONDER IF BEAVOGUI, IN JUNE CONVERSATIONS WITH UN'S SEC GEN WALDHEIM IN NEW YORK, MADE SIMILAR OFFER TO RECEIVE OBSERVERS. FRENCH AMB LEWIN, WHO IS VISITING OR WILL VISIT NEW YORK DURING AUGUST, CONFIDENTIAL

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INDICATED HE INTENDED BROACH ISSUE WITH WALDHEIM. IF WALDHEIM IS PLANNING UN'S OWN MISSION, THEN IT MIGHT BE WELL TO HOLD TO US'S INITIATIVE IN RESERVE AND LET UN GO FIRST. MAINLAND

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